

CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE

MAYOR JOHN J. PISKURA

TO: Pam Kaput, GLSLCI

29 April, 2009

FROM: John J. Piskura, Mayor City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio

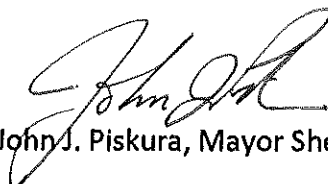
SUBJECT: Request for Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award

The City of Sheffield Lake, Ohio, and all the people who live on the Great Lakes need to recognize how important our region is to the World. We hold the largest concentration of free fresh water on earth. In the past we have thrived on our advantage by misusing our rivers, and lakes. We have used our natural resources, our easy food production and our energy supply without thought for others. We have been innovators to the world and prospered for it. Now, we must use our remaining resources with sound judgment in order to continue to lead the world.

Our first step is, where there is merit, we must return to basic technology. By motivating residents to participate in a storm water runoff reduction program by managing a simple rain barrel, we can plant the seeds of conservation up front and personal with all our residents. Ingenuity and personal pride can be fostered in yard ownership, commitment to reduced street flooding and ecological preservation.

The second step is social and economic responsibility for water use. The Great Lakes' Residents have water but clean drinking water need not be contaminated by man. With our abundant rain water, by saving drinking water through watering and gardening, we can reduce the use of chemical water treatment and the energy that is used to make water safe to drink.

When asked what Sheffield Lake would do with the \$5,000 Award, the City appreciates that the Wege Award is more valuable to Our Community than the money. Pride in recognition and participation in a program that can be incorporated Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River wide is more valuable than the Prize. The \$5,000 would help defray the cost of 350 rain barrel projects and would be used for that purpose. Our pilot study is underway and we hope to open it up City wide in the near future. If our project is selected, you may find that this is the simple step that tips all social, economic, and ecologic interests in favor of the environment. Remember a simple small fire on the Cuyahoga River and one book "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson spawned the Environmental Movement around the world.


John J. Piskura, Mayor Sheffield Lake, Ohio



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BACK TO THE BASICS, A PENNY SAVED AND OUR WATER TOO

Lake Erie is at the bottom of the Great Lakes, but Sheffield Lakers are trying to raise our water quality by recycling what is dropped on us. Before there were "City Water" and storm sewers, our Fathers and Grandfathers stored roof runoff water in cisterns and good old used barrels to drink, and dug ditches to keep the rain water out of our houses. With storm sewers and streams overflowing, the price of drinking water rising and water pollution from roofs poisoning our precious Lake, action is needed, now, to stop sheet runoff, reduce erosion, prevent over chlorination and drinking water waste.

To correct this problem, Sheffield Lake no longer will allow roof runoff from new home and remodeled home to directly enter the storm system. But mandating reform without solutions does not create successful change. To help all our residents adjust, the City is proposing the following inexpensive program. First, the City will purchase used plastic barrels from our local environmental mitigation companies. Second, a hose clamp, plastic spigot, eye bolt and 4' 3/8" hose will be provided by donation. Third, the City will provide each resident's participating resident 150 pounds of stone. Fourth, Our City Recycle coordinator with volunteers' help will conduct free public classes on how to conserve water and save money through using rain water instead of chlorinated water for gardening. Fifth, our local Boy Scout Troops, with the help of adults will assist local residents in the construction and installation of their new rain barrels. Sixth, the City Arborous will provide classes for resident to help them develop water gardens to retain and detain runoff water. The construction of rain barrels modified to act like gravity pumps is a simple concept that was used by our forefather, but time and convenience push them aside. Now is the time to go back to basics, stop wasting drinking water and slow down roof runoff by using the grass filtering system that each home has.

Sheffield Lake is at the surface tipping point of Lake Erie. Our City is stable, we recycle, we have reduced drink water usage by 7% over the last ten years, but we still do not have the fever needed to move to Green. Our 10,000 residents have bike trails, intermodal transportation, and a boat launch plus 3 Parks that features free access to Lake Erie, but need a personal involvement step to change our City. Personal water conservation that residents can see and do may be the tipping point that leads Sheffield Lake and our Residents to fully and activity embraced the importance of conservation at an individual level. The City won the BOATUS 2008 Award for proving access to the Lake. If the Residents can win this Award and prove they believe, not only will they save pennies and drinking water but The Great Lake's can proudly show why this is the great region in the World to Live, Work and Play.

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT TACTICAL ASSESSMENT SINGLE-PROPERTY RAIN BARRELS

Local Government Cost: Minimal

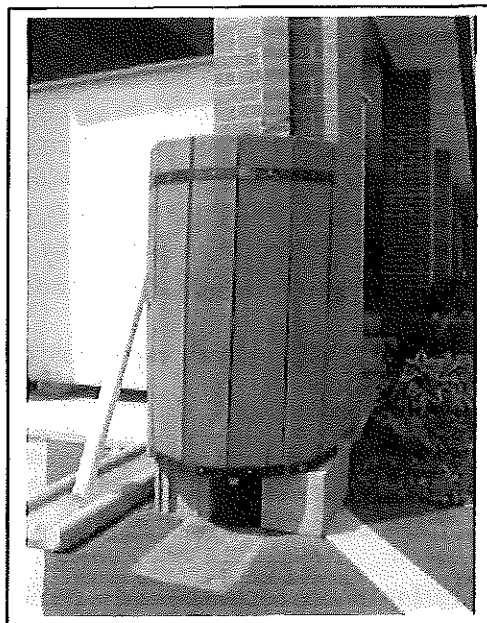
Permitting Issues:

Financing Issues: None

Installation Issues: Barrel needs to be elevated to allow for water flow from unpressurized container. Barrel may need to be disconnected/reconnected to downspout on a seasonal basis.

Maintenance / Inspection Issues: Barrel needs to be cleaned periodically, especially if connected to a downspout from a rooftop "green" garden.

Service Life Issues: Not significant



Rain barrel on display at Lorain Soil and Water Conservation District;
built by Eagle Scout Cole Musial of Avon Lake, OH, Troop 334.